



June 20, 2012

Received & Inspected

JUN 28 2012

FCC Mail Room

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
9300 East Hampton Drive  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Re: WC Docket No. 10-90, Annual 54.313 Report of High-Cost Recipient

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Enclosed herein is the annual report for **Southern Montana Telephone Company**, Study Area Code 482254 pursuant to §54.313 of the Commission's rules.

Also enclosed is one copy of this cover letter that I ask you to stamp and return in the enclosed self addressed stamped envelope.

Please contact me with any questions at:

Phone (406) 689-3333

Email [lmason@smtel.com](mailto:lmason@smtel.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry B. Mason".

Larry B. Mason  
Vice-President/Secretary/General Manager

Enclosure

CC:

Karen Majcher  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Kate Whitney  
Montana Public Service Commission  
1701 Prospect Avenue  
P.O. Box 202601  
Helena, MT 59620-2601

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**SOUTHERN MONTANA TELEPHONE COMPANY**

Annual 54.313 Report of High-Cost Recipient

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**Certifications**

In compliance with the following regulations, **Southern Montana Telephone Company**, by Larry B. Mason its Vice-President/Secretary/General Manager, hereby certifies, subject to the penalties for false statements imposed under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, that:

47 CFR § 54.202(a)(1)(i) – It has made reasonable efforts to comply with the service requirements applicable to the support it receives, specifically:

High Cost Loop Support – the services listed and defined in 47 CFR § 54.101(a).

Lifeline Support – the three criteria set forth in 47 CFR § 54.401(a).


Interstate Common Line Support – the filings required in 47 CFR § 54.903 and the certification required in 47 CFR § 54.

Connect America Fund – the filings required in 47 CFR § 51.919(b).

47 CFR § 54.313(a)(5) – It has made reasonable efforts to comply with applicable service quality standards as stated in Montana Administrative Rule 38.5.33, Telecommunications Service Standards and consumer protection rules as defined in 47 CFR Part 64 Subpart U, Customer Proprietary Network Information and the Federal Trade Commission Red Flag rules to prevent identity theft. (See also Page 3)

47 CFR § 54.313(a)(6) – It has made reasonable efforts to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.202(a)(2). (See also Page 2-3)

Certified by:

  
Signature

Larry B. Mason  
Printed Name

Vice-President/Secretary/General Manager  
Title



## **Ability to Remain Functional in Emergency Situations**

### Back-up Power

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** has the following back-up power capabilities:

Switches – stand alone and/or host

Southern Montana Telephone Company's Host Switch has a 30 KW propane powered generator with a 500 gallon fuel supply tank. Approximate run time is 48 hours with no maintenance.

Central Office batteries are rated at 490 AH capable of 52 amp draw for approximately 8 hours.

### Remote Central Offices

Most remote central offices are equipped with 12.5 KW propane powered generators with a 500 gallon fuel supply tank. Approximate run time is 48 hours with no maintenance.

Southern Montana Telephone Company has two 15 KW trailer mounted mobile gasoline powered generators for remote central offices without stationary backup power, each with fuel capacity to run approximately 8 hours. These are stored at the host central office site.

Remote central office batteries are rated at 200 AH capable of 20 amp draw for approximately 8 hours.

### Subscriber carrier (DLC, AFC, OPM, etc.)

Carrier huts are equipped with external connections for use with mobile generators. Hut batteries are rated at 96 AH capable of 23.4 amp draw for approximately 8 hours.

Southern Montana Telephone Company uses both Purcell and Calix brand DLC batteries. Purcell brand DLC cabinet batteries are rated at 183 AH capable of 20.5 amp draw for 8 hours. Calix brand DLC cabinet batteries are rated at 38 AH capable of 4.5 amp draw for approximately 8 hours.

### Network Interface Devices (NIDs)

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** has 572 customers with metallic (copper) connections to the Central Office and their NIDs are powered from the Central Office.

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** has 418 customers with non-metallic (fiber optic) connections to the Central Office. These customers' NIDs are battery powered in case of emergency. The batteries are rated to last 10 hours with no use and 6 hours with constant use.



## **SOUTHERN MONTANA TELEPHONE COMPANY**

### **Annual 54.313 Report of High-Cost Recipient**

#### Ability to reroute traffic around damaged facilities

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** has in place a redundant SONET ring to reroute traffic in the event of a transport fiber cut or equipment failure.

#### Capability to manage traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** has 990 customers, switching capacity of 10,000 simultaneous calls, and transport capacity for 64 simultaneous calls. **Southern Montana Telephone Co.** takes no responsibility for the capabilities of interconnected networks to manage traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.

## **Outages**

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** did not collect and was not required to report outage data to the Montana Public Service Commission in 2011.

## **Miscellaneous Information**

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** did not collect and was not required to report unfilled service request data to the Montana Public Service Commission in 2011.

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** did not collect and was not required to report customer complaint data to the Montana Public Service Commission in 2011.

## **Satisfaction of Consumer Protection and Service Quality Standards**

#### Consumer Protection

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** complies with the requirements of 47 CFR Part 64 Subpart U, Customer Proprietary Network Information and the Federal Trade Commission Red Flag rules to prevent identity theft. A manual for each of those programs is in place and is part of the employees' handbook. Employee training is conducted annually and new hires are instructed on the programs as required by their job functions.

#### Service Quality Standards

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** complies with the service standards of the State of Montana as promulgated in the Montana Administrative Rule 38.5.33, Telecommunications Service Standards.





**SOUTHERN MONTANA TELEPHONE COMPANY**  
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**Additional Voice Rate Data**

Voice rate data

Residential Local Service Rate:	\$16.00
State Subscriber Line Charges <sup>(1)</sup> :	\$0.00
State Universal Service Fee <sup>(1)</sup> :	\$0.00
Mandatory EAS Charges <sup>(2)</sup> :	\$0.00

Total rates and fees for comparison: \$16.00

<sup>(1)</sup> Montana has no State SLC or State Universal Service Fee.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Company has no Mandatory EAS Charge.

Rates below the local urban rate floor of \$10.00 in 2011

**Southern Montana Telephone Company** had no local rates below the urban rate floor of \$10.00 per month in 2011.



**Southern Montana Telephone Company**



PO Box 205  
Wisdom, MT 59761  
406-689-3333  
Fax: 406-689-3959

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